

REORGANIZATION PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

(Each municipality in a School Union must be indicated separately.)

School Administrative Units Included in APPROVED Notice of Intent	School Administrative Units Submitting Reorganization Plan
Alna	Alna
Palermo	Palermo
Somerville	Somerville
Westport Island	Westport Island
Whitefield	Whitefield
Windsor	Windsor
Wiscasset	Wiscasset
	Chelsea

Contact Information:

RPC Co-Chairs

Name:	<u>Blake Brown</u>	<u>Lester Sheaffer</u>
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Date Plan Submitted: March 28, 2008

Proposed RSU Operational Date: July 1, 2009

REC'D MAR 28 2008

Superintendent Signature

Superintendent Signature _____

Superintendent Signature _____

Superintendent Signature _____

Superintendent Signature _____

Superintendent Signature

Superintendent Signature _____

Superintendent Signature

Date _____

Date _____

Date _____

Date _____


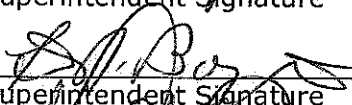



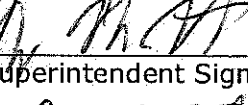
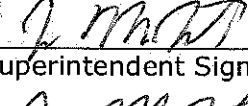

Date _____

Date _____

Date _____

Date _____

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

<u></u> Superintendent Signature	<u>3-27-08</u> Date	<u>Chelsea School Department</u> SAU
<u></u> Superintendent Signature	<u>3-27-08</u> Date	<u>Whitefield School Department</u> SAU
<u></u> Superintendent Signature	<u>3-27-08</u> Date	<u>Palermo School Department</u> SAU
<u></u> Superintendent Signature	<u>3-27-08</u> Date	<u>Somerville School Department</u> SAU
<u></u> Superintendent Signature	<u>3-27-08</u> Date	<u>Windsor School Department</u> SAU
<u></u> Superintendent Signature	<u>3-27-08</u> Date	<u>Alna School Department</u> SAU
<u></u> Superintendent Signature	<u>3-27-08</u> Date	<u>Westport School Department</u> SAU
<u></u> Superintendent Signature	<u>3-27-08</u> Date	<u>Wiscasset School Department</u> SAU

Revision History

REV	DATE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
1	11/30/07	Jay McIntire	1 st Plan submission
1.1	2/22/08	Jay McIntire	Added Chelsea information. Incorporated GOVERNANCE & FINANCE information adopted by RPC at meetings on 2/14 and 2/21
1.2	3/7/08	Jay McIntire	Added planned dates for local school committee votes for plan submission

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Reorganization Plan Cover Sheet

(Please attach Reorganization Plan as Exhibit A)

Required Elements							
Law Reference Item Number Sub- Chapter 2	Item	N/A	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Identified Barrier ¹	Need Assistance
3.A(1)	SAUs included in RSU		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(2)	Size of governing body		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Composition of governing body		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Apportionment of governing body		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(3)	Method of voting of the governing body		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(4)	Composition of local school committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Powers of local school committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Duties of local school committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(5)	Disposition of real & personal school property		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(6)	Disposition of existing school indebtedness (if not using provisions of section 1506)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disposition of lease-purchase obligations (if not using provisions of section 1506)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(7)	Assignment of school personnel contracts		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Assignment of school collective bargaining agreements		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Assignment of other school contractual obligations		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(8)	Disposition of existing school funds and existing financial obligations		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(9)	Transition plan that addresses the development of a budget for the first school year		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Transition plan that addresses interim personnel policies		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(10)	Documentation of the public meeting(s) held to prepare or review reorganization plan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(11)	Explanation of how units that approve reorganization plan will proceed if one or more units do not approve the plan		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(12)	Estimate of cost savings to be achieved		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(13)	Such other matters as the governing bodies of the school administrative units in existence on the effective date of this chapter may determine to be necessary		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Please explain why this is a barrier and what assistance you need to remove this barrier on the next page.

² Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on page 3.

Parameters for Plan Development							
Law Reference Item Number Sub- Chapter 2	Item	N/A	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Identified Barrier ³	Need Assistance ⁴
3.B(1)	Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception ⁵)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sec. XXXX-36, Parameter B	When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.B(2)	Comprehensive programming for all students grades K - 12.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Includes at least one publicly supported high school		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.B(3)	Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.B(4)	No displacement of teachers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	No displacement of students		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sec. XXXX-26, Parameter F	The plan must address how the school administrative unit will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that the projected expenditures of the reorganized school unit in fiscal year 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program ⁶		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements							
						Yes	No
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? <i>(not required, but encouraged)</i>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

³ Please explain why this is a barrier and what assistance you need to remove this barrier on the next page.

⁴ Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on page 3.

⁵ Please note in the *Exceptions to 2500 minimum* section on next page.

⁶ This requirement is only for those who plan to be operational as an RSU in fiscal year 2008-2009, in accordance with a Reorganization Plan that is approved by the Commissioner and by the voters.

Exceptions to 2,500 minimum

Actual number of students for which the RSU is fiscally responsible: 2302

Exception	Exception Claimed in Plan	Documentation Provided? (Please attach as Exhibit B)	
		Yes	No
Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demographics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population Density	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Unique Circumstances	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation of Barriers –

Please use this section to explain any/all barriers identified on the previous page as a barrier in completing your Reorganization Plan.

Law Reference/Required Element	Explanation of the barrier

Assistance Needs –

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

Law Reference/Required Element	Explanation of your assistance need	Assistance needed from whom?

EXHIBIT A

SHEEPSCOT VALLEY RSU REORGANIZATION PLAN

School Administrative Unit Reorganization Plan

for

Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit

made up of Maine municipalities:

Alna

Chelsea

Palermo

Somerville

Westport

Whitefield

Windsor

Wiscasset

[Plan submission 03/28/2008]

Respectfully submitted to Commissioner Gendron by superintendents:

Frank Boynton
Jay McIntire
Greg Potter

with assistance from:

Bob Connors & Jake Clockedile

On behalf of all applicable school committees.

REORGANIZATION PLAN

SAUs Submitting:

Alna School Department
Chelsea School Department
Palermo School Department
Somerville School Department
Westport School Department
Whitefield School Department
Windsor School Department
Wiscasset School Department

Contact Information:

For Alna, Westport, and Wiscasset school departments

Jay McIntire, superintendent
214 Gardiner Road
Wiscasset, ME 04578

For Chelsea and Whitefield school department

Frank Boynton, superintendent
School Union 132
320 Griffin Road
Windsor, ME 04363

For Palermo, Somerville, and Windsor school departments

Gregory Potter, superintendent
School Union 133
69 Augusta Road
Whitefield, ME 04353

Date Submitted by SAU: March 28, 2008

Proposed RSU Operational Date: July 1, 2009

School Administration Units

The units of school administration to be included in the proposed reorganized regional school unit.

The proposed regional school unit includes the following school administrative units:

- A. Town of Alna, a municipal school unit.
- B. Town of Chelsea, a municipal school unit.
- C. Town of Palermo, a municipal school unit.
- D. Town of Somerville, a municipal school unit.
- E. Town of Westport, a municipal school unit.
- F. Town of Whitefield, a municipal school unit.
- G. Town of Windsor, a municipal school unit.
- H. Town of Wiscasset, a municipal school unit.

Vote to Submit Plan to Commissioner

Before submitting a reorganization plan to the Commissioner of Education the governing body of each school administrative unit adopted the following vote:

VOTED: That the provisions included in the school reorganization plan prepared by the Sheepscot Valley Reorganization Planning Committee to reorganize Alna School Department, Chelsea School Department, Palermo School Department, Somerville School Department, Westport School Department, Whitefield School Department, Windsor School Department, and Wiscasset School Department into a regional school unit with an operational date of July 1, 2009, are determined to be necessary within the meaning of Section XXXX-36(5)(M) and that the Superintendent of Schools be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to submit the school reorganization plan to the Commissioner of Education on behalf of this school administrative unit by March 28th, 2008.

Note: Adoption of this vote does not necessarily mean that the governing body of the school administrative unit endorses the school reorganization plan. This vote is required in order for the school reorganization plan to include "such other matters as the governing bodies . . . determine to be necessary" under Section XXXX-36(5)(M) of the school reorganization law and in order for the plan to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by the school administrative unit as required by Section XXXX-36(4).

Date of public meeting at which each school committee voted to submit this report.

	<u>Date</u>
Alna	[03-17-2008]
Chelsea	[03/11/2008]
Palermo	[03/24/2008]
Somerville	[03/18/2008]
Westport	[03/25/2008]
Whitefield	[03/12/2008]
Windsor	[03/19/2008]
Wiscasset	[03-10-2008]

RSU with Less Than 2,500 Students

The towns in Sheepscot Valley RSU have 2,302 K-12 students, as listed below.

Alna	90
Chelsea	411
Palermo	237
Somerville	74
Westport	106
Whitefield	348
Windsor	452
Wiscasset	<u>584</u>
Total	2302

Population density

The RSU's 2,302 students are distributed across 8 towns covering approximately 224 square miles, for a total population density of 65 persons per square mile. See Appendix 6.

Other unique circumstances

The unique circumstance is the secondary choice concern raised by the communities.

Later revisions of the plan will provide *(1) thorough research to collect data relevant to the factors listed above; (2) analysis of how the data supports approval of the alternative plan; (3) explanation of why a larger regional school unit will be costly or impractical; (4) explanation of how the regional school unit will maximized efficiencies in management and by collaboration with other school units or municipalities; (5) analysis of the effect on the ability of nearby units to comply with the reorganization law, such as "doughnut holes."*

Sheepscot Valley RSU Preamble

Mission Statement

Educational Goals

Governance

Adopted February 14th, 2008 by the general RPC board

"The term "vote" shall always refer to a weighted vote."

1. Recommend 20 members to the new RSU board as described with weights as shown below.

Two to three members per town

	Town Votes	RSU Members	Votes/Member
Alna	683	2	342
Chelsea	2688	3	896
Palermo	1358	2	679
Somerville	537	2	269
Westport	821	2	411
Whitefield	2234	3	745
Windsor	2297	3	766
Wiscasset	3871	3	1291
	14489	20	
Majority			7245

2. Initial terms of members from each town will be determined after the elections by having the person with the most votes take the longest available term. Towns having three members will have a 1-yr, 2-yr, and 3-yr terms. In the four remaining towns, two towns will have a 1-yr and 3-yr, one will have a 2-yr and 3-yr, and one will have a 1-yr and 2-yr as follows: Alna (1/3), Palermo (2/3), Somerville (1/2) and Westport Island (1/3).
3. The initial weights of votes will be the population of each town (from the 2006 estimated census) within the RSU divided by that town's number of members on the RSU board. The weights of member votes will be recalculated after each U.S. census, with the redistribution of weights taking effect July 1st of the year following the publication of the final census figures.
4. A majority vote on a motion is determined by the majority of the weighted votes of those present and voting except when otherwise required by law or another provision of this plan.
5. A quorum shall be established by having at least 5 towns represented and those members present holding more than half of the total votes of the RSU board.

6. The closing of a school shall require at least 2/3 the total number of votes of the full RSU board, with the exception of any units whose local school committee has taken formal action prior to the formation of the RSU.
7. The RSU board may designate issues on which a supermajority vote is required. It shall take a 2/3-majority vote of those present to designate such issues.

Finance

Adopted January 31st, 2008 by the general RPC board – That we give guidance to the Finance Sub-committee to come up with a formula for tax commitment where the variance in change from year to year is no higher than or lower than three percent of previous commitment

Guiding Principles for Cost Sharing Goal Development

Adopted February 21st, 2008 by the general RPC board

The following Guiding Principles are suggested for consideration of a new School Committee once formed:

Guiding Principles

1. Cost sharing will be done in as fair and even-handed manner as possible for each member town.
2. Sheepscot Valley RSU will seek to achieve maximum efficiency within the framework of providing high quality education to our students in the use and sharing of all resources.

Taxation Distribution Safety Net

Adopted February 21st, 2008 by the general RPC board

In any fiscal year in which the application of the RSU's funding formula results in one or more towns having a total decrease of local tax dollars raised for education* of 3% or more, the following will apply:

1. Each town described above (contributors) will raise additional tax dollars equal to half of the difference between their prior year's tax burden and that anticipated under the RSU funding formula.
2. Additional monies raised under #1 will be used to reduce the tax burden of any towns in the RSU anticipating an increase in total local tax burden that exceeds 3% (receivers). These reductions will be distributed among such towns on the basis of their population until each has no larger year-to-year increase than 3%.
3. In any year when the amounts raised under #1 above exceed the amounts needed to hold local taxation amounts constant, the additional monies raised shall be invested in an account to be used for major capitol expenses of the RSU.
4. If in any given year the RSU board determines that it has adequate money invested in its long-term capitol improvement account to meet its foreseeable needs, it may redirect the additional funds realized under #3 above for other educational purposes.

**For purposes of this section, "local tax dollars raised for education" means the tax dollars raised to serve the purposes of the RSU. It does not include taxes raised for other educational purposes or for purposes that are otherwise required by law to be the obligations of municipalities, not the RSU.*

Cost Sharing Formula

Adopted February 21st, 2008 by the general RPC board

The RSU Board of Directors will have the authority to review and analyze the cost sharing formula in year 3 following incorporation of the RSU. If the Board decides that the cost sharing formula should be revised to provide greater balance in the cost sharing agreement, the Board shall utilize the following procedure to make any changes deemed advisable.

1. The Board shall conduct a review and study of the cost sharing formula as it has been used during the first three years of the existence of the RSU. In doing so, the Board shall consider variations in local costs that have occurred as a result of implementation of the cost sharing plan.
2. The Board may choose to conduct the review as a full Board, or to assign it to an appropriate Board sub-committee. They may also by majority vote, determine to employ a qualified consultant or consultants to conduct the review and bring any recommended changes to the Board for consideration.
3. If changes are recommended in the cost sharing formula, the Board will present those changes for discussion and review in a public hearing held for the residents of the RSU.
4. Following the public hearing, the Board shall complete a final review and consideration of the recommended changes as part of a regularly announced Board meeting.
5. If the Board decides to proceed with changes to the cost sharing formula, the changes shall be presented to the public for ratification through either a District wide referendum or a District wide meeting. The Board may also include such changes as part of the regularly scheduled District Budget meeting or District Budget referendum.
6. The meeting (or referendum) will be preceded by a public hearing on the proposed changes at which, a complete impact analysis of the changes will be explained to the public both in writing and verbally at the hearing.
7. The voting process and public hearings will be conducted in compliance with applicable state law and RSU Board policy.

8. The RSU Board shall review the cost sharing formula plan in the above manner at least every 3 years, for the purpose noted in statement #1 above.
9. Should the Board decide not to make any changes in the formula in the years designated for review, a petition signed by a number of voters that is at least 10% of the number of voters from the RSU who voted in the last gubernatorial election shall cause the Board to conduct the review and to report the decisions that come from that review at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Disposition: Property & Fixtures Listing
Appendix 2	Bonds, Notes & Leased Purchase Agreements
Appendix 3	Individual Employment Contracts
Appendix 4	Public Meeting Documentation
Appendix 5	Finance: Cost Sharing Formula
Appendix 6	Regional Census Data and Population Density

Appendix 1 - Disposition: Property & Fixtures Listing

Appendix 2 - Bonds, Notes & Leased Purchase Agreements

Appendix 3 - Individual Employment Contracts

Appendix 4 - Public Meeting Documentation

Separate document

Appendix 5 - Finance: Cost Sharing Formula

Appendix 6 - Regional Census Data and Population Density

Based on 2006 State Data

	Population Census	Square Miles	Density
Alna	683	20.99	32.53930443
Palermo	1358	43.54	31.18971061
Somerville	537	22.79	23.56296621
Westport Island	821	8.92	92.04035874
Whitefield	2234	47.47	47.06130187
Windsor	2297	35.5	64.70422535
Wiscasset	3871	24.76	156.3408724
Chelsea	2688	19.59	137.2128637
RSU TOTAL	14489	223.56	64.81034174

APPENDIX 4 - Public Meeting Documentation

Agendas and minutes of the following public meeting(s) held to prepare or review the reorganization plan are attached as Appendix 4:

Date of Public Meeting	Time	Location
November 13, 2007	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
November 20, 2007	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
November 26, 2007	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
December 13, 2007	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
December 20, 2007	Cancelled due to snow	Whitefield Elementary School
January 10, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
January 24, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
January 31, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
February 7, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
February 14, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
February 21, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
February 28, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
March 6, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
March 13, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
March 20, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School
March 27, 2008	6:30 pm	Whitefield Elementary School

Reorganization Planning Committee
Agenda- November 13th, 2007 - 6:00 PM
Whitefield Elementary School

1. Introductions
2. Review of School Board positions (motions)
3. Review of Resident Students by Municipality (list towns & # students)
4. Motion Needed to Proceed
5. December 1st plan
6. Committee Structure and Election of Members
 - a. Elect chair & co-chair
 - b. Public Notices
7. Adjournment

REORGANIZATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

For the towns of Alna, Chelsea, Georgetown, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset

Minutes - November 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Francis Boynton, Superintendent of Union 132.

Superintendent Boynton introduced the other Superintendents, Greg Potter of Union 133 and Jay McIntire of Wiscasset/Westport Island/Alna. Bob Connors was also introduced as the facilitator.

The following RPC members introduced themselves: Lester Sheaffer, Whitefield; Richard T. Hagan, Windsor; David Stanley, Somerville; Natasha Bouchard, Somerville; Mark Brundage, Palermo; Dean Potter, Palermo; Blake Brown, Palermo; Ron Atwood, Whitefield; Brian Lawrence, Alna; Albert Lawrence, Alna; Frank Hample, Somerville; Douglas Smith, Wiscasset; George Greene, Wiscasset; Sandra Crehore, Westport Island; Barbara Baston, Alna; Carolyn Meixell, Westport Island; George Horne, Georgetown; Don Cowing, Georgetown; Rick Danforth, Chelsea; Allen, Chelsea; Tanya Condon, Chelsea; Dwight Tibbetts, Windsor; Steve McCormack, Whitefield.

Also present: Lucy Martin, Lincoln County News; Priscille Atwood, Whitefield, Elaine Nutter, Union 132; Liisa Hamilton, Westport Island; Hillary Holm, Whitefield; Carole Cifrino, Whitefield; Nina Roth-Wells, Georgetown; Kristin Malin, Georgetown; Beth Choate, Windsor; Sonya Caswell, Chelsea; Chapman, Chelsea; Whitefield Resident; Lisa Miller, Legislator, Somerville; Don Poulin, Erskine Academy.

Superintendent Boynton explained the agenda. All three Superintendents explained the motions passed by their school committees that identify towns authorized for consolidation.

There was general discussion prior to returning to the agenda on what Towns actually at this point have committed to the RPC. They are: Alna, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, and Wiscasset. Chelsea has not yet voted to do so nor had Georgetown.

- Election of Co-chairs: MOTION, SECONDED AND PASSED by unanimous vote
Doug Smith of Wiscasset and Blake Brown of Palermo
- Election of Secretary: MOTION, SECONDED AND PASSED by unanimous vote
Sandra S. Crehore of Westport Island

GOVERNANCE OF THE RPC

Discussion: Every town should be represented so a quorum would be 7 with a possibility of 8 or 9 if one/both Chelsea or Georgetown joined in.

Question: Does each town have one vote or one per member present?

- MOTION, SECONDED AND PASSED by unanimous vote
That there is one equally weighted vote per town.
- MOTION, SECONDED AND PASSED by unanimous vote

That a quorum shall consist of one representative from each town.

- MOTION, SECONDED AND PASSED by unanimous vote
Alternates shall be afforded voting rights when filling in for a regular member.

Following a short break to allow Towns to caucus:

- MOVED, SECONDED AND PASSED by unanimous vote
Towns can exercise a right to caucus at any time during voting issues and then one member from the Towns shall vote.
- MOVED, SECONDED AND DEFEATED
An effort shall be made to limit meetings to two hours.

Revisited issue of quorum but there was no motion to change what had been previously voted upon.

Due to the lateness of the evening and uncertainty about list of participating towns, sub-committee membership will be determined at the next meeting.

The three Superintendents offered to start working on the Plan and bring back what they have done to the November 20th meeting. Question was asked of the facilitator, Mr. Connors, if each Town can sign a cover sheet and then have them all attached. As far as he knows, that can be done.

- MOVED, SECONDED AND PASSED by unanimous vote
When votes are being cast, the Secretary will call the roll [of towns] to get a Yea/Nay tally.

Chelsea and Georgetown will be meeting this week to decide whether or not they will seek to be added to this RPC.

The following meetings were scheduled, to be held in Whitefield at 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, November 20th and Monday, November 26th.

- MOTION, SECONDED AND PASSED
To adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra S. Crehore
Secretary

Reorganization Planning Committee

November 20th, 2007 at 6:30 pm

Whitefield Elementary School

AGENDA

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Adjustments to agenda
- 3) Approval of Minutes (11/13/07)
- 4) Status of Georgetown & Chelsea
- 5) Consideration of DRAFT Plan (For Dec. 1st Deadline)
- 6) Proposed Subcommittees
 1. Educational Programs and Services
 2. Governance
 3. Finance
 4. Contracts
 5. Disposition of Property, Obligations and Indebtedness
 6. Other ad-hoc subcommittees
- 7) Other business
- 8) Future meetings
 1. Set schedule
 2. Agenda
- 9) Adjourn

Reorganization Planning Committee Meeting

November 20, 2007 – 6:30 pm

Whitefield Elementary School

Alna, Palermo, Somerville, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset, Westport

Attending: Blake Brown, co-chair (Palermo), Doug Smith, co-chair (Wiscasset), Carolyn Meixell (Westport), Mark Brundage (Palermo), Robert Soohey (Whitefield), Albert Lawrence (Alna), Brian Lawrence, (Alna), Lester Sheaffer (Whitefield), Ron Atwood (Whitefield), Dennis Dunbar (Westport), George Greene (Wiscasset), Richard Hagan (Windsor), Shellie Nichols (Windsor), Nicole Veile (Wiscasset), Natasha Bouchard (Somerville), Frank Hample (Somerville), Barbara Baston (Alna), Liz Brown (Alna), Rep. Lisa Miller (Somerville).

Also attending: superintendents Boynton & McIntire, assistant superintendent Nutter, and facilitator Connors

Absent, excused: Sandra Crehore, Westport

Determination of a quorum: all 7 towns are represented.

CALL TO ORDER. Doug Smith, 6:38 pm

Dennis Dunbar moved to name Jay McIntire as secretary in the absence of Sandra Crehore. 2nd by Frank Hample. Adopted by consensus.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA. None.

Lester Sheaffer moved that superintendents join the table as nonvoting members of the group. Motion seconded by Blake Brown. Passed by consensus.

E-mail addresses for Robert Soohey, Bob Connors, and Ron Atwood will be added to e-mail distribution list.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13. Motion to accept by as written by Hagan, 2nd Brundage. Adopted by consensus.

It was discussed and adopted by consensus that formal calling of the role of towns for votes would only be used when a vote was split or when a substantive matter important to the creation of the RSU was being considered. On more typical votes, consensus adoption will be sought first.

STATUS OF GEORGETOWN and CHELSEA.

Georgetown

Doug Smith reported that on November 19 the Wiscasset School Committee voted not to include Georgetown in the RSU. The committee's reasoning included that Georgetown's geographic isolation from the RSU and its non-contiguosness would create difficulties for transportation given the state has required a reduction of 5% and would also create oversight challenges. Blake Brown reported that Palermo also voted unanimously not to bring in Georgetown for similar reasons.

The chairs accepted a request to make a public comment from a Georgetown RPC member, who thanked the RPC for its consideration.

[Secretary's note: The Palermo and Wiscasset votes terminate Georgetown's role in this RPC and proposed RSU.]

Chelsea

Superintendent Boynton shared that Chelsea voted on November 16 to seek joining Augusta's RSU by a 3-2 vote. Chelsea is meeting with Augusta on November 20 to seek a commitment. He requested this group to keep the door open to Chelsea.

It was noted that Chelsea has taken action twice to leave this group and that it might not be practical to keep the option open to them.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT PLAN FOR DECEMBER 1.

The status of plans was reviewed by Bob Connors. He reviewed the cover material for the plan, adding that the commissioner intends to respond to each plan within two weeks and to set a date for a follow-up status report. Facilitator Connors also reviewed the draft of the actual plan. Several minor corrections needed were noted. The plan to be submitted will also have some material yet to be completed or attached, such as the rationale for having fewer than 2500 students and the minutes and agenda of all meetings prior to December 1.

In discussing the plan, it was noted that each RSU must adopt an official name. Dennis Dunbar moved that the RSU be named "Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit." The motion was seconded by Ron Atwood and approved by consensus.

SUBCOMMITTEES.

The roles of each proposed subcommittee were described by Connors, Boynton, and McIntire, along with proposed staffing for each.

The RPC made several procedural decisions about subcommittees by consensus:

- 1) Barbara Baston, chair of Alna School Committee and RPC member, is a teacher in the Wiscasset School Department. She is approved by the RPC to serve on the RPC without bias and will be assigned to a committee that doesn't create a conflict of interest.
- 2) Towns with more than three members may have each member serve on a committee. They need not name one as an alternate.
- 3) Alternates may either serve as a regular member of a committee or serve in the place of an absent member, as that alternate and their town's delegation see fit.
- 4) The secretary will provide as part of the minutes a list showing which plan elements are assigned to each committee and the members and staff for each committee.
- 5) Subcommittees are expected to elect chairs and to keep minutes of meetings.

Committee assignments and responsibilities from the Reorganization Plan Required Elements checklist developed by the department and from section 13 of Drummond, Woodsum, and McMahon's material follow:

Educational programs and services

Staff: to be determined

Members: Barbara Baston, Alna
Blake Brown, Palermo
David Blake, Westport
Lester Sheaffer, Whitefield

Elements: 3B(2); 3B(3), 3B(4), and subsections 1-3, 7, and 8 of section 1451; section XXXX-26, Parameter F, which is shared by this subcommittee and finance.

Governance

Staff: Jay McIntire

Members: Ron Atwood, Whitefield
Dick Hagan, Windsor
Liz Brown, Alna
George Greene, Wiscasset
Mark Brundage, Palermo

Elements: 3A(2); 3A(3); 3A(4); 3A(11); 13(C) of DWM recommendations

Finance

Staff: Greg Potter

Members: Albert Lawrence, Alna
Shellie Nichols, Windsor
Frank Hample, Somerville
Doug Smith, Wiscasset
Dennis Dunbar, Westport

Elements: 3A(9) (including personnel policies); 3A(12); 13(B) of DWM; 3B(3), subsections 4-6 of 1451; Section XXXX-26, Parameter F, which is shared by this subcommittee and educational programs and services.

Contracts

Staff: Frank Boynton

Members: Brian Lawrence, Alna
Sandra Crehore, Westport
Rep. Lisa Miller, Somerville
Robert Soohey, Whitefield

Elements: 3A(7), 13(D) of DWM

Disposition of Property, Obligations, and Indebtedness

Staff: Elaine Nutter

Members: Nicole Veile, Wiscasset
Carolyn Meixell, Westport
Dean Potter, Palermo
Tom Birmingham, Windsor
Steve McCormick, Whitefield
David Stanley, Somerville

Elements: 3A(5); 3A(6); 3A(8); 13(E) of DWM

Other Ad-hoc Subcommittee

Staff: to be determined

Members: Natasha Bouchard, Somerville

Elements: oversight of completion of sections that cross subcommittees -- 3B(3), XXXX-26, Parameter F, and DWM section 13.

Administrative tasks not assigned to a subcommittee:

Preparation of cover sheet and its contents: Boynton
Preparation of final plan according to DWM: McIntire
3B(1): Potter
3A(10) public meetings: McIntire
13(F) Vote to submit plan: each superintendent
13-G: Boynton, Potter

Unassigned responsibility: Section XXXX-36, Parameter B: need state assistance

FUTURE MEETINGS and DEADLINES.

November 26 at Whitefield 6:30 pm
November 27-30 school committees vote to submit plan
November 30 each sign a page to send to Augusta

2-3 meetings will be scheduled at the next meeting

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING.

Committee of the whole discussion of individual town priorities

Committee work

ADJOURN by consensus: 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jay McIntire

ATTACHMENT: FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Reorganization Planning Committee

November 26th, 2007 at 6:30 pm

Whitefield Elementary School

Alna, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Adjustments to agenda
3. Approval of Minutes (11/20/07)
4. Status of Chelsea
5. Consideration of DRAFT Plan (For Dec. 1st Deadline)
6. Committee discussion of individual town priorities
7. Committee Work
 - a. Unassigned – Section XXXX-36, Parameter B (need state assistance)
8. Other business
9. Future meetings & Deadlines
 - a. November 27-30 school committees vote to submit plan
 - b. November 30 each school committee sign a page to send to Augusta
 - c. Future meeting dates ?
10. Adjourn

Reorganization Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes from November 26th, 2007

Whitefield Elementary School – 6:30 pm

Alna, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset

Attending RPC Members: Co-chairs Blake Brown (Palermo) and Doug Smith (Wiscasset);

<i>Town</i>	<i>Attending</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Alna</i>	Albert Lawrence	Barbara Baston, Liz Brown, Brian Lawrence
<i>Palermo</i>	Mark Brundage, Dean Potter	
<i>Somerville</i>	Frank Hample, Rep. Lisa Miller, David Stanley	Natasha Bouchard
<i>Westport Island</i>	Dennis Dunbar, Carolyn Meixell	David Blake Sandra Crehore (excused)
<i>Whitefield</i>	Ron Atwood, Steven McCormick, Lester Sheaffer	Robert Soohey
<i>Windsor</i>	Thomas Birmingham, Richard Hagan	Shellie Nichols
<i>Wiscasset</i>	George Greene, Nichole Viele	
<i>Others</i>	Bob Connors (facilitator), Marianne Marple (Whitefield), Carl Pease (Windsor town manager) Don Poulin (Headmaster, Erskine Academy) Elaine Nutter (Union 132 asst superintendent) Frank Boynton (Union 132 superintendent) Greg Potter (Union 133 superintendent) Jay McIntire (Wiscasset superintendent)	

Determination of a quorum: all 7 towns are represented.

CALL TO ORDER: Co-chair Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm

Doug Smith moved to name Jay McIntire as recording secretary in the absence of Sandra Crehore. Seconded by Blake Brown. Adopted by consensus.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: There were none.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20:

Amendments included adding Lester Sheaffer to Educational Program subcommittee; adding Rep. Lisa Miller as an attendee, adding David Stanley to Disposition subcommittee.

Motion to accept with amendments by Lester Sheaffer, seconded by Frank Hample. Adopted by consensus.

STATUS OF CHELSEA: Asst. superintendent Elaine Nutter requested that we delay Chelsea's status. Superintendent Boynton left earlier to attend a consolidation meeting with Chelsea and was hoping to provide an update via cell phone.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONSOLIDATION PLAN: Superintendent McIntire introduced the draft consolidation plan. He stated that several minor changes were necessary; updating the cover sheet contacts to reflect RPC co-chairs for Doug Smith and Blake Brown. Whereas the November 20th minutes required amending, these updates were also required as part of the consolidation package.

Superintendent McIntire pointed out Sec. XXXX-26, Parameter F (page 2) is required only for those who plan to be an RSU in fiscal year 2008-2009. As this is not applicable, the item will be removed from the plan prior to submission.

INDIVIDUAL TOWN CONCERNS FOR THE COMMITTEES TO CONSIDER:

Educational Programs & Services

- (Whitefield) Student:teacher ratio is important. Want small class sizes. Prefer class sizes of 12-15 per class, with 17 as a high-end limit.
- Alna is very interested in keeping school choice, especially at the high school level. Whitefield agrees that they want parent free choice. Windsor, Somerville and Palermo agree. Whitefield does not want any limits to choice established by the RSU.
- Wiscasset has a successful pre-K program that it wants to maintain.
- Whitefield has an alternative secondary program that it would like to maintain.

Governance

- Windsor – retain a strong viable local school board.

Finance

- Superintendents have met with the Department of Education and the issue of local additional was discussed. Proceed with RSU planning as though the finance plan is gone. DOE wants to see creative solutions to cost sharing.
- Superintendent Potter clarified cost sharing ability for individual towns to raise funds [at a town meeting] over and above the formula at any time.

Superintendent McIntire requested clarification from Bob Connors if a particular school must be consolidated K-8 or could the school system include grades K-8? Bob Connors stated there is no definitive answer at this time.

- Wiscasset is interested in who retains control of restricted local scholarship funds and grants. Somerville stated the same concern.
- Westport – what happens to educational reserves? Will the town keep the reserves or will it be turned over to the district?

Contracts

- Tom Birmingham pointed out that all of the 7 school departments are represented by one legal firm (Drummond, Woodsum, and McMahon) and that this may cause a conflict of interest during contract negotiations. Bob Connors indicated this question had been posed and D&W stated they would request a 3rd party counsel get involved if the situation arose.

Disposition of Property, Obligations, and Indebtedness

- Whitefield is concerned with the potential closing of small schools – they want to retain their school property.
- Somerville school property is shared by town office, salt shed, etc. It is the only municipal property in town. Wiscasset shares this interest, especially because the recreation center shares certain athletic fields with the high school.
- Wiscasset wants to ensure the school property to come back to the town if the RSU stops using it as a school.
- Wiscasset selectmen want it acknowledged that Wiscasset has already started its school closure process and doesn't want consolidation to interfere with that process.
- Somerville has flexible policies about community groups using school facilities. It is the only community building in town. Palermo agrees.

SUBCOMMITTEE WORKING SESSIONS: Need to determine frequency and length of meetings. Calendar noting all local school committee meetings was provided for December and January 2008.

June 2008 is the target for presenting plan to voters. By law, this must be done by secret ballot, so committee needs to allow adequate time for notification and distribution of ballots.

Dennis Dunbar requested clarification about the expected end results for each subcommittee. Doug Smith stated that each subcommittee would be tasked differently depending upon their purpose. Group agreed that subcommittees would be prepared to make recommendations at different times. As subcommittees complete their task, members can be reassigned to assist other subcommittees.

Breakout sessions began at 7:30 pm. Subcommittees instructed to return to general session at 8:15 pm. Doug Smith recommends that each subcommittee identify: (1) their chair/spokesperson, (2) the subcommittee secretary, and (3) their target completion date.

General session reconvened and was called to order by Doug Smith at 8:22 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none. Still no status to report for Chelsea.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Calendar review indicated that best availability was Thursday or Friday evenings. Group consensus agreed to target Thursday evening of every other week. Several members requested a 9:00 pm end time. The group agreed not to limit meeting end time but to target 9:00 pm. Meetings will start at 6:30 pm unless noted otherwise. Generally, subcommittees will meet during breakout sessions of RPC meetings. However, subcommittees may meet separately as required.

Superintendent McIntire reminded members that all subcommittee meetings are legally open to the public. Wiscasset will manage public notices. As soon as any meetings are scheduled please notify Heidi Leinonen via email (hleinonen@wiscasset.k12.me.us) or by calling 882-6303.

Inclement weather may require cancellation of certain meetings. It was determined that the three superintendents would serve as focal contacts for their municipalities. In general, if after school activities are cancelled at the host facility, so is the RPC meeting.

- Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 pm – Whitefield Elementary School
- Thursday, December 20th at 6:30 pm – Whitefield Elementary School
- Thursday, January 10th at 6:30 pm – Whitefield Elementary School
- Thursday, January 24th at 6:30 pm – Whitefield Elementary School

ADJOURN by consensus at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay McIntire

Reorganization Planning Committee
Alna, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset

December 13th, 2007 at 6:30 pm
Whitefield Elementary School

AGENDA

- 10) Call to order
- 11) Adjustments to agenda
- 12) Approval of Minutes (11/26/07)
- 13) Presentation by Chelsea
- 14) Subcommittees Breakout Sessions
 - Subcommittee Reports
 - Identify spokesperson
 - Identify secretary
 - Target completion date
 - Subcommittee Minutes
 1. Identify attending RPC members
 2. Identify quorum
 3. Include verbatim any motions
 4. Disposition of minutes
- 15) Public Comment
- 16) Other business
- 17) New Business
- 18) Future meetings
 - RPC - December 20th at 6:30pm in Whitefield
 - RPC - January 10th at 6:30pm in Whitefield
 - RPC - January 24th at 6:30pm in Whitefield
10. Adjourn

Sheepscot Valley Reorganization Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes from December 13th, 2007

Whitefield Elementary School – 6:30 pm

Alna, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset

<i>Town</i>	<i>Attending RPC Members</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Alna</i>		Barbara Baston, Liz Brown, Albert Lawrence, Brian Lawrence
<i>Palermo</i>	Blake Brown (Co-chair), Mark Brundage	Dean Potter
<i>Somerville</i>	Rep. Lisa Miller	Natasha Bouchard, David Stanley, Frank Hample
<i>Westport Island</i>		David Blake, Sandra Crehore, Dennis Dunbar, Carolyn Meixell
<i>Whitefield</i>	Lester Sheaffer, Robert Soohey	Ron Atwood, Steven McCormick
<i>Windsor</i>	Richard Hagan	Shellie Nichols, Thomas Birmingham,
<i>Wiscasset</i>	George Greene, Doug Smith (Co-chair)	Nichole Viele
<i>Others</i>	Richard Cote (Chelsea School Board) Allen Hallett (Chelsea) Richard Danforth (Chelsea Selectman) Cheri Rodrigue (Chelsea) Bob Connors (facilitator), Carl Pease (Windsor town manager) Don Poulin (Headmaster, Erskine Academy) Frank Boynton (superintendent for Union 132) Greg Potter (superintendent for Union 133) Jay McIntire (superintendent for Alna, Westport Island, Wiscasset) Heidi Leinonen (Wiscasset)	

CALL TO ORDER: Co-chair Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm

Determination of a quorum: 2 towns are not represented, therefore quorum is not met.

Doug Smith moved to name Jay McIntire as recording secretary in the absence of Sandra Crehore.
Seconded by Blake Brown. Adopted by consensus.

Procedural note from Doug Smith - contributions will be limited to RPC members except during public comments session.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: There were none.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26:

Without a quorum present the minutes were postponed until the next RPC meeting.

QUORUM QUESTION:

Co-chair Doug Smith questioned the decision to have all 7 towns representatives present vs. a majority of members. Inclement weather may be an on-going issue over the next few months. This item needs to be on the agenda for review and discussion at the next RPC meeting.

CHELSEA PRESENTATION: Chelsea representatives – Allan Hallett, Rick Danforth, Richard Cote (spokesperson). Requesting to join Sheepscot Valley RSU.

History synopsis: January to July part of Union 133. Chelsea was with Hall-Dale, but submitted August 31 plan to join with 132 and 133. October meeting w/Commissioner. September was turned down by Union 51. Chelsea voted in October to join Hall-Dale or Augusta. Not sure at that time what would happen to old Union 51 (132 and 133). Late October rejected by both Hall-Dale and Augusta due to school choice. State pressured them to try again with Augusta. Augusta said no. November 28th Chelsea RPC voted to request to join Sheepscot Valley RSU.

Why Sheepscot Valley RSU is a good choice for Chelsea? It is a small, rural community. Their priority is to have school choice preserved. Both Halldale and Augusta insisted on Chelsea limiting school choice. Augusta wanted to take over Chelsea school and bus all Chelsea K-5 to Augusta. Also a priority to keep school open.

What can Chelsea offer? Their inclusion would increase enrollment of this RSU to 2300+ students. Chelsea assured the RPC members they are 110% committed to this RSU. The Chelsea school board is united on this point. Chelsea is willing to help in any way they can. Willing to step right in and get to work. Understand that next step is to go back to towns and seek a favorable vote. In the meantime will show up and participate in subcommittees.

Chelsea will have a new school in 2 years and they want Chelsea students to go to it.

Question: (George Greene) You gave an explanation of what you went through, but how many meetings did you attend with Augusta and why was there not at least some representation here at our meetings? Are you going to feel comfortable not being in charge with the new SV RSU?

Answer: 3 meetings with Augusta. In retrospect Chelsea agrees they should have maintained representation at RPC meetings. Chelsea realizes there will be minimal authority within the new RSU. Augusta was proposing a 90%/10% (Chelsea) representation. Chelsea IS committed to the new Sheepscot Valley RSU.

Question: (Mark Brundage) We heard a lot about the split vote on your board. What was the division on your board? We also heard a lot about townspeople being split in Chelsea. What were those concerns and how have they been allayed or will they be allayed? It would be the job of the Chelsea RPC members to inform the town.

Answer: Rift didn't occur until after commissioner rejected the plan to go with Whitefield, Palermo, Somerville, Windsor. Some wanted fiscal savings of Augusta while others had as a primary concern staying with small towns. Initial concern with the Sheepscot Valley RSU was when SAD40 was potentially involved – too many towns to deal with.

Question: (Lester Sheaffer) Short of Chelsea turning down this plan, is there any chance you're going to change your mind again?

Answer: No, Chelsea is committed to the new RSU.

Question: *(Blake Brown)* It will be hard to sell Chelsea to Palermo school board because this board feels that Chelsea “walked out” on the RSU twice. Are you [Chelsea] willing to come to the various school committee meetings and present your case?

Answer: Absolutely yes. Chelsea will meet and talk to any/all boards if allowed the opportunity.

Comment: *(Doug Smith, on behalf of Westport)* – they are interested in commitment. At the first meeting in Wiscasset, it was said that whoever attended the next meeting would be a part of the RSU. You asked for an extension at the next meeting, but you never even sent a representative to show any continued interest in our RSU. There is a concern over motives. Is Chelsea really committed or just here because they were rejected by Augusta?

Comment: *(Lisa Miller)* - Many Union 132 and 133 towns have worked with these folks for years. I would like to see you welcomed back. They are trying to respond to their townspeople as we all are.

Comment: *(Richard Danforth, Chelsea)* I want to be able to tell townspeople that the players have explored every option.

Question: *(Mark Brundage)* I understand the fact we have some history, but I wonder whether or not there are facts that show how you’re going to help us. Bottom line, what does Chelsea bring to the table?

Request to provide all RPC members with the financial templates that include and exclude Chelsea. Superintendent McIntire stated there has been a change since the initial 10/11/07 report (with Chelsea). Minimum receiver for special education will adjust the numbers.

Superintendent Potter reminded members that the present budgets carry forward 3 years into the consolidation and then transition into a new RSU budget.

What does Chelsea need to do next? Superintendents will inform Chelsea when they can attend school committee meetings to seek votes in support of Chelsea.

- Palermo – December 19th
- Windsor – January 2nd
- Wiscasset – January 14th – do not need to attend
- Alna – January 15th
- Westport Island – January 22nd

Question by Chelsea and clarification – all 7 towns have to vote ‘yes’ to accept Chelsea or they cannot be accepted by the RSU.

Question: *(Doug Smith)* What point is the new school building at? Are we building more capacity than we need? Wiscasset has excess capacity and is trying to close a school. How do these two facts interact?

Answer: Chelsea was told by the state that their building project is protected.

Townspeople can vote to keep a local school open, but they will have to pay the extra. Is this 5 years?

Co-chair, Blake Brown recommended allowing Chelsea to participate as non-voting members until all school committees have voted. Adopted by consensus.

Comment: *(Superintendent Frank Boynton)* Chelsea submitted one single plan on December 1 that it was seeking to joining Sheepscot valley RSU, if accepted.

Comment: *(Bob Connors)* Once December 1st plans have been reviewed, the proposed RSU's will have until February 1st to respond.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Doug Smith clarified the position that superintendents need to be explicitly allowed to speak during the meeting, not restricted to public comments session. When they were added to the table at an earlier meeting, that gave them the authority to speak.

Comment: *(Carl Pease)* Procedural statement – when no quorum is present votes cannot be taken and motions cannot be made.

Comment: *(Doug Smith)* stated that alternates can also participate in subcommittee breakout sessions.

OTHER BUSINESS: Subcommittee appointments and reassignments were defined.

- Richard Danforth (Chelsea) will be replaced by Sharon Morang in future meetings. Sharon Morang will join the disposition subcommittee.
- Allen Hallett will join governance subcommittee.
- Richard Cote will join financial subcommittee.
- Elaine Nutter will switch from disposition to educational subcommittee.
- Frank Boynton will switch to disposition subcommittee.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

- Thursday, January 10th at 6:30 pm – Whitefield Elementary School
- Thursday, January 24th at 6:30 pm – Whitefield Elementary School

ADJOURN by consensus at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay McIntire

Reorganization Planning Committee
Alna, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset

January 10th, 2008 at 6:30 pm
Whitefield Elementary School

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Adjustments to agenda
3. Approval of Minutes (11/26 & 12/13)
4. Chelsea Consideration Roll-Call
5. Major Financial Considerations
6. Major Governance Options
7. Public Comment
8. Future meetings
 RPC - January 24th at 6:30pm in Whitefield
9. Adjourn

SHEEPSCOT VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 10TH, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Doug Smith, Co-chair

Roll call found the following:

	Present	Absent
Alna	Barbara Baston Liz Brown Albert Lawrence Brian Lawrence	
Chelsea	Richard Cote Allen Hallett Sharon Morang Cheri Rodrique	
Palermo	Blake, Brown, Co-chair	Mark Brundage, Dean Potter
Somerville	Lisa Miller, Alternate David Stanley	Natasha Bouchard, Frank Hample
Westport Island	David Blake Sandra Crehore, Secretary Dennis Dunbar Carolyn Meixell	
Whitefield	Lester Sheaffer	Ronald Atwood, Robert Soohey, Steven McCormack, Thomas Birmingham
Windsor	Richard Hagan Dwight Tibbetts	
Wiscasset	George Greene Doug Smith, Co-Chair Nicole Viele	

2. Doug Smith explained the change in agenda. There seems to be a lot of angst over the financial picture and governance piece and the Co-chairs felt that the whole group should come to some agreement before the sub-committees work on these pieces.
3. A **MOTION** was made and seconded to accept the minutes of November 26th, 2007. Carried
A **MOTION** was made and seconded to accept the minutes of December 13th, 2007. Carried
Alna explained they were absent because of an Alna meeting.

QUORUM ISSUE: It was felt that the present quorum was too limited.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to have one from each town or 50% plus 1 of the total group. Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: A motion was made by Blake Brown (Palermo) and seconded by David Blake (Westport Island). That a quorum would be made up of a majority of the total number of towns. Motion carried: Roll Call vote: six towns for; one (Windsor) against.4.

4. A **POLL** was taken by Roll Call on the admittance of Chelsea. Palermo voted 3-2 to admit; Whitefield voted to admit; Wiscasset has voted to admit. Alna, Somerville, Westport Island and Windsor have yet to do so but there was no indication it wouldn't pass in these towns.

Discussion of meetings should a storm occur – if school is held in Whitefield, the RPC will meet unless afternoon activities are cancelled.

5. Financial Considerations:

The Financial Template of 12/11/07 incorrectly listed Chelsea but doesn't include their numbers and is based on estimated 2007-2008 funding and is just designed to give flavor. Greg Potter went through the template with explanations of each step. On Step 4: Palermo debt service includes Insured Value Factor. On Step 7 Westport Islands numbers were because of the use of a large last year's surplus in this year's budget.

Bob Connors talked about LD1932, the cost sharing bill, which he feels will pretty much pass as drafted. There is sweeping consolidation law change but as of yet, no one knows what it will be. Bob felt that it is imperative that we work together as effectively and efficiently as possible to make this RSU work. If any town should vote the RSU down they need to be aware that School Unions don't exist in the law, only municipalities and RSU's.

Lisa Miller said they'd only been back eight days and are working on the issues. The Education Committee must submit their recommended bills by January 18th. Super RSU's are being submitted as a minority report.

DISCUSSION:

Although 1932 does allow for being creative in cost sharing, there will have to be a consistent formula created with certain parameters for the state to use for the funding of education in regards to the local addition money.

There needs to be an agreement that no town should be helped or hurt by the consolidation in the first year. It was suggested a percentage a 10 above or 10 below the tax commitment for education.

Frank Boynton suggested areas of concern – equity across the RSU in programming, in contracts (Administration, Teachers, Support Staff, etc.) be considered equally in the RSU for all schools. New suggestion 3% – 5% above or below tax commitment.

MOTION: Nicole Viele (Wiscasset), seconded by Dwight Tibbetts (Windsor).

That we give guidance to the Finance Sub-committee to come up with a formula for tax commitment where the variance in change from year to year is no higher than or lower than three percent of previous commitment. A Roll Call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

5. GOVERNANCE

One member brought up representation on RSU per town.

It was decided that this discussion would take longer than the time left and this would be a topic for the January 24th meeting.

6. HOUSEKEEPING

Dates for future meetings: January 24th already set. Taking a Saturday was discussed but it was thought that sub-committees needed to do work before that takes place. It was then decided to hold meetings every Thursday through February starting with January 31st. February dates are the 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th.

Meetings will be publicized.

On January 24th, Governance will be a main agenda item as well as any other deal breaker. Sub-committees should select a chair as well a secretary. All sub-committees need to keep minutes. Minutes are to be sent to the Wiscasset Central Office to be given to the RPC Secretary for inclusion in the minute packet.

If sub-committees are holding meetings at other times, please notify the Wiscasset Central Office for publicizing.

7. There was no public comment.

8. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra S. Crehore
Secretary

Reorganization Planning Committee

Alna, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset

January 24th, 2008 at 6:30 pm
Whitefield Elementary School

AGENDA

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Adjustments to agenda
- 3) Approval of Minutes (1/10)
- 4) Chelsea Consideration Roll-Call
- 5) Major Governance Options
- 6) Subcommittees Breakout Sessions (time permitting)

Subcommittee Reports

- a. Identify spokesperson
- b. Identify secretary
- c. Target completion date

- 7) Public Comment
- 8) Future meetings
All meetings at Whitefield Elementary School from 6:30-9:00pm
unless noted otherwise.
Thursday, January 31st
Thursday, February 7th
Thursday, February 14th
Thursday, February 21st
Thursday, February 28th

SHEEPSCOT VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES - JANUARY 24TH, 2008

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Doug Smith, Co-chair

Roll call found the following:

	Present	Absent
Alna	Liz Brown	Barbara Baston
	Albert Lawrence	
	Brian Lawrence	
Chelsea	Allen Hallett	Richard Cote
	Sharon Morang	
	Cheri Rodrique	
Palermo	Blake, Brown, Co-chair	Dean Potter
	Mark Brundage,	
Somerville	Lisa Miller, Alternate	Natasha Bouchard,
	Frank Hample	
	David Stanley	
Westport Island	Sandra Crehore, Secy	David Blake
	Dennis Dunbar	
	Carolyn Meixell	
Whitefield	Lester Sheaffer	Steven McCormack,
	Robert Soohey	
Windsor	Richard Hagan	Thomas Birmingham,
	Carl Pease, Alt	Dwight Tibbetts
Wiscasset	George Greene	
	Doug Smith, Co-Chair	
	Nicole Viele	
Faciltator	Jake Clockedile	
Superintendents	Frank Boynton	
	Jay McIntire	
	Greg Potter	

2. There were no adjustments to the agenda
3. The minutes were accepted as printed.
MOTION: Mark Brundage, seconded by Carolyn Meixell, carried.
4. A roll call was taken to see if the four town school committees who hadn't voted by last meeting on admitting Chelsea had now done so and the result of that vote:
ALNA: YES - SOMERVILLE: YES - WESTPORT ISLAND: YES - WINDSOR: YES

5. GOVERNANCE

Representative, Lisa Miller, presented an update on Legislation. LD1932 is to be going before the Legislature and the financial picture is moving pretty fast. The Education Committee has submitted their report as an Emergency Bill which includes changes of the voting dates in Bucket A and Bucket B includes controversial issues among the committee and may not even come out of committee.

The minority report is a fix it bill. It includes Super Unions and Unions allowing a lot of flexibility to the Towns to enable them to have more involvement. This could either be a bill or an amendment.

The budget validation process is not mandatory this year but may be done at the discretion or the municipal officers.

There is a new deadline for submitting the next plan phase: March 28th.

Jay McIntire presented Legal Interests Driving Governance Limitations and a chart with the options. After discussion it was decided that the best method was "Any Other method consistent with equal representation laws." There are 13,000 total votes for our RSU. Town may select one or more persons who carry the population votes. The Education Committee bill says no member's vote may have an excess over equal that exceeds 5% instead of 2%.

DISCUSSION:

- Option 3 can be used here only if the bill passes.
- Question: how often would the population be reassessed? – answer: by request of a community or by wording in the plan.
- We need to be clear about which option makes the most sense.
- Town questions to committee members have seemed to all be about weighted voting.
- Population is physical bodies – not taxpayers or registered voters.
- Sub-districts add complexities. Weighted voting much simpler
- Maybe a little larger board would divide up the chores easier.
- 2 members per town for a board of 16, voting weighted by population.
- Frank Boynton suggested 2 members per small towns (Alna, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island) and 3 members per the larger towns (Chelsea, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset) making a board of 20. This helps with the 51%. Jay McIntire will run the numbers of this option plus the 2 member/town option for comparison.

The final comparison will be presented in advance so that the committee can come to a decision next week.

6. BOARDS UNDER BOARDS

DISCUSSION:

- There are elected officials in towns to handle issues with those towns, local school committee not needed.
- Towns favoring local committees were asked for a list of whys and why nots for next meeting.
- Locally raised extra monies would have to be turned over to the RSU Board for spending although the reason could be mandated.
- LD1932 spells out RSU Board duties with "shall be but not limited to." Jake Clockedile stated that if local school committees are used, their power structure will have to be spelled out and clarified as LD 1932 will narrow the range of these local committees. The majority report clearly spells out the fiduciary responsibilities of the RSU Board.
- Carl Pease made a motion that the RPC Committee instruct the Governance Sub-committee to recommend that there be or not be a provision for local school boards under the RSU. This motion died for lack of a second.
- A statement was made that the RPC has a responsibility to do what is best for the RSU and the children being educated and then to provide the towns with what they need to make an educated decision.
- One member said to compromise now to get what you want later.
- Greg Potter gave the suggestion that the RSU include a local school committee provision. Have a discussion around an idea to lay out the option and let a community form theirs as a way to get road blocks out of the way.
- Towns who want local committees could have elected RSU directors be part of these local boards with explicit duties narrowly defined and laid out.

ROLL CALL QUESTION: Recommending that your town have a local school committee.

Result: **YES** – two (Palermo and Windsor)

NO – six

7. Do we want to continue to look at these issues as a full group or continue with sub-committees?

DISCUSSION:

- Use sub-committees but the full RPC give them direction so that they don't put in a lot of work and come back to have it knocked out.
- Proposals will need to be voted on by whole RPC.
- Tonight saw a lot of headway and as a group this might continue.
- Guidelines need to be presented to sub-committees.
- It took a long time to get where we are tonight. Sub-committees, with guidance, might cut this down.
- Serious discussions: property, contracts, curriculum.
- Major roadblocks will be given to the sub-committees to work out. If a sub-committee comes up with a roadblock, they can come back and poll the RPC.
- Before leaving tonight, sub-committees are to have chairs and secretaries so that this task doesn't need to be done at the next meeting.

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandra S. Crehore
Secretary

Reorganization Planning Committee
Alna, Chelsea, Palermo, Somerville, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset

January 31st, 2008 at 6:30 pm
Whitefield Elementary School

AGENDA

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Adjustments to agenda
- 3) Approval of minutes (1/24)
- 4) Review Governance options before referral to subcommittee
- 5) Review road blocks (if any) on remaining subcommittee topics
 - Contracts
 - Disposition
 - Educational Programs/Services
 - Finance
 - Governance
- 6) Subcommittees breakout sessions
 - Identify spokesperson & secretary
- 7) Public comment
- 8) Future meetings - all meetings at Whitefield Elementary School at 6:30 pm unless noted otherwise.
 - Thursday, February 7th
 - Thursday, February 14th
 - Thursday, February 21st ?????
 - Thursday, February 28th
- 9) Adjourn

SHEEPSCOT VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES - JANUARY 31st, 2008

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Doug Smith, Co-chair

Roll call found the following:	Present	Absent
Alna	Barbara Baston, Liz Brown	
	Albert Lawrence, Brian Lawrence	
Chelsea	Richard Cote, Allen Hallett	
	Sharon Morang, Cheri Rodrique	
Palermo	Blake, Brown, Co-chair	Dean Potter
	Mark Brundage,	
Somerville	Lisa Miller, Alternate	Natasha Bouchard
	Frank Hample,	David Stanley
Westport Island	Sandra Crehore, Secretary	David Blake
	Dennis Dunbar, Carolyn Meixell	
Whitefield	Lester Sheaffer, Robert Soohy	Steven McCormack
Windsor	Thomas Birmingham	
	Dwight Tibbetts, Richard Hagan	
	Carl Pease, Alt	
Wiscasset	Doug Smith, Co-Chair	
	Nicole Viele, George Greene	
Facilitator	Jake Clockedile	
Superintendents	Frank Boynton, Jay McIntire,	
	Greg Potter	

2. There were no adjustments to the agenda.
3. The minutes were accepted as printed with a date change at the top to January 24th.
4. Governance options to go to the Governance sub-committee for a recommendation as to 16 or 20 members on the RSU Board, to come back to the full RPC committee for a vote.
5. We are breaking out into sub-committees tonight. It was noted that Whitefield is planning a new town office and maybe a Superintendent's office in the building could be discussed. Frank Boynton said that a plan had been talked about already.
6. It was suggested to revisit local school committees or not but there was no further discussion as a roll call had been taken last meeting on this issue.

Full meeting was suspended and the various sub-committees went into separate rooms to work on their topics. The full RPC re-convened at 9:00.

7. There was no public comment.
8. Committees were asked if they had any roadblocks to report on. At present, there were none.

9. There was discussion about having a meeting on February 21st due to school vacation and people with plans but with all the work that needs to be done by March 28th in order to submit the plan so that votes can be taken in June. Further dates were set for the month of March – March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. Same time, same meeting place.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sandra S. Crehore, Secretary

The Secretary will have a folder with committee reports in it for anyone who wishes to read them.

February 14th, 2008 at 6:30 pm
Whitefield Elementary School

AGENDA

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Adjustments to agenda
- 3) Approval of minutes (1/31)
- 4) Constitutional Limitations to RSU After Voter Approval
(short presentation by Jay McIntire)
- 5) Optional Group Discussion of any Subcommittee Roadblock/Issues
- 6) Subcommittees breakout sessions
 - a. Contracts
 - b. Disposition
 - c. Educational Programs/Services
 - d. Finance
 - e. Governance
- 7) Public comment
- 8) Calendar - Whitefield Elementary School at 6:30 pm unless noted
 - Thursday, February 21st (Governance subcommittee report due)
 - Thursday, February 28th (Finance subcommittee report due)
 - Thursday, March 6th (all other subcommittee reports due)
 - Thursday, March 13th (review status of plan to date)
 - Thursday, March 20th (final approval of plan)
 - ***** local school boards to vote on plan for submission to DOE ***
Thursday, March 27th
- *** MARCH 28th – REVISED PLAN DUE ***
- 9) Adjourn

SHEEPSCOT VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES - FEBRUARY 14TH, 2008

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Doug Smith, Co-chair

Roll call found the following:	Present	Absent
Alna	Barbara Baston	
	Liz Brown	
	Albert Lawrence	
	Brian Lawrence	
Chelsea	Allen Hallett	Richard Cote
	Sharon Morang	
	Cheri Rodrigue, Alternate	
Palermo	Blake, Brown, Co-chair	Dean Potter
	Mark Brundage	
Somerville	Lisa Miller, Alternate	Natasha Bouchard, Frank Hample, David Stanley
Westport Island	Sandra Crehore, Secretary	
	David Blake	
	Dennis Dunbar	
	Carolyn Meixell	
Whitefield	Lester Sheaffer	Steven McCormack, Robert Soohy
Windsor	Thomas Birmingham	
	Dwight Tibbetts	Richard Hagan, Carl Pease, Alt
Wiscasset	George Greene	
	Doug Smith, Co-Chair	Nicole Viele
Facilitator	Jake Clockedile	
Superintendents	Frank Boynton	
	Jay McIntire	
	Greg Potter	
	Elaine Nutter	

2. Adjustments to the agenda:

Casco Bay Plan: Doug Smith said that the Casco Bay Plan is available with copies for all Sub-committee chairs. Since this is touted as a model plan, members may want to make reference to it.

Fiscal Agent appointment.

3. The January 31st minutes were accepted as printed.
4. It was brought to the attention of the group, that there needs to be a fiscal agent to take care of monies available for dispersement.

MOTION: Lester Sheaffer made moved that Jay McIntire be the fiscal agent, seconded by Richard Hagen. Vote: Yes 9, No 3 **Motion carried.**

5. Discussion: Legislature needs to adopt some kind of legislation that lets changes be made and voted on by each municipality separately. What decisions do we want the RSU Board to be able to make. We need to be sure these are spelled out in the plan.

6. As requested, the Governance Committee reported out on the issues from the January 24th meeting.
- **MOTION: Recommend that 20 members as described in the printed options, option D with weights as shown in handout. Motion by Mark Brundage, seconded by Lester Sheaffer.** After clarification by Jay McIntire that the population numbers were the 2000 census and that the numbers will change when using the 2006 census although it will not impact the number of representatives per town. With this method Alna would have approximately 338 votes/member; Chelsea 853; Palermo 610; Somerville 255; Westport Island 372; Whitefield 791; Windsor 734; Wiscasset 1201 for a total of 6944, these figures based on 2000 census. **Roll call vote: Unanimous by all eight towns to adopt this recommendation.**
 - **MOTION: Initial terms of members from each town will be determined after the elections by having the person with the most votes take the longest available term.** Towns having three members (Chelsea, Whitefield, Windsor, and Wiscasset) will have one year, two year, and three year terms. In the four remaining towns, two towns will have a one year term and a three year term, one town will have a two year term and a three year term, and one town will have a one year term and a two year term. **Motion to accept this made by Barbara Baston, seconded by Richard Hagen. Roll call vote: Unanimous by all eight towns to adopt this motion.** Following this vote, numbers representing terms were put into a hat and a representative from each of the four towns affected drew. The results as followed: Alna has a one year term and a three year term; Palermo has a two year term and a three year term; Somerville has a one year term and two year term and Westport Island has a one year term and a three year term.
 - **MOTION: The initial weights of votes will be the population of each town (from the 2006 estimated census) within the RSU divided by that town's number of members on the RSU board. The weights of member votes will be recalculated after each U.S. Census, with the redistribution of weights taking effect January 1st of the year following the publication of the final census figures.** Frank Boynton brought up using July 1st as the date the new weights would take effect as that is the school's fiscal date. **The above motion was amended changing January 1st to July 1st. Motion by George Greene, seconded by Dennis Dunbar. Roll call vote: Unanimous by all eight towns to adopt this motion.**
 - **MOTION: A majority vote on a motion is determined by the majority of the weighted voters of those present and voting except when otherwise required by law or another provision of this plan. Motion by David Blake, seconded by Sandra Crehore. Roll call vote: Unanimous by all eight towns to adopt this motion.**
 - **MOTION: A quorum shall be established by having at least 5 towns represented and those members present holding more than half of the total votes of the RSU board. Motion by Richard Hagan, seconded by Mark Brundage. Roll call vote: Unanimous by all eight towns to adopt this motion.**

- **MOTION: The closing of a school shall require 2/3 or more of all votes of the full RSU Board.** Discussion about Wiscasset being exempt because they are all ready in the process. **Motion amended: remove “or more: after 2/3 in the original motion. Add “with exception of any units who have taken a formal action of the local school board to close a school prior to the formation of the RSU. Motion by Lester Sheaffer. Motion died for lack of a second.** Request that this go back to the Governance Sub-Committee lacked a motion to do so.
- **New Motion: The closing of a school shall require at least 2/3 of all votes of the full RSU Board with the exception of any units who have taken a formal action of their local school Board to close a school prior to formation of the RSU. Motion by Douglas Smith, seconded by Lester Sheaffer. Roll call vote: Unanimous by all eight towns to adopt this motion.**
- **The RSU Board may designate issues on which a supermajority vote is required. It shall take a 2/3 majority vote of those present to designate such issues. Motion by Mark Brundage, seconded by Lester Sheaffer. Roll call vote: Unanimous by all eight towns to adopt this motion.**

At this time, the full committee broke out into sub-committees to continue their work, to reconvene at 9:00.

Upon reconvening at 9:00, it was asked if anyone wanted to re-visit the February 21st meeting and how many would be attending. The majority indicated they would be present so the meeting will be held.

7. There was no public comment.
8. Comment was made that the Disposition sub-committee and the Governance issues overlap.
9. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra S. Crehore
Secretary

February 21st, 2008 at 6:30 pm
Whitefield Elementary School

AGENDA

- 1) Call to order
 - 2) Adjustments to agenda
 - 3) Approval of minutes (2/14)
 - 4) Optional Group Discussion of any Subcommittee Roadblocks, Issues or Recommendations
 - 5) Subcommittees breakout sessions
 - f. Contracts
 - g. Disposition
 - h. Educational Programs/Services
 - i. Finance
 - j. Governance
 - 6) Public comment
 - 7) Calendar - Whitefield Elementary School at 6:30 pm unless noted
 - Thursday, February 28th (Finance & Governance reports due)
 - Thursday, March 6th (all other subcommittee reports due)
 - Thursday, March 13th (review status of plan to date)
 - Thursday, March 20th (final approval of plan)
- *** Local school boards to vote on plan for submission to DOE ***
- Thursday, March 27th (approval & signatures)
- *** MARCH 28th – REVISED PLAN DUE ***
- 8) Adjourn

Please note our schedule of deliverables due in the next few weeks – deadlines are looming!

SHEEPSCOT VALLEY RSU REORGANIZATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES - FEBRUARY 21st, 2008

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Doug Smith, Co-chair.

In the absence of Sandra Crehore, George Greene volunteered to record the minutes.

Roll call found the following:

	Present	Absent
Alna	None Present	Barbara Baston Liz Brown Albert Lawrence Brian Lawrence
Chelsea	Allen Hallett Richard Cote Cheri Rodrigue, Alternate	Sharon Morang
Palermo	Blake, Brown, Co-chair Mark Brundage	Dean Potter
Somerville	None present	Lisa Miller, Alternate, Natasha Bouchard, Frank Hample, David Stanley
Westport Island	Dennis Dunbar	Sandra Crehore, David Blake, Carolyn Meixell
Whitefield	Lester Sheaffer Steven McCormack	Robert Soohey
Windsor	Carl Pease, Alt	Thomas Birmingham, Dwight Tibbetts, Richard Hagan
Wiscasset	George Greene Doug Smith, Co-Chair	Nicole Viele
Facilitator	Jake Clockedile	
Superintendents	Frank Boynton Jay McIntire Greg Potter Elaine Nutter	

Quorum was determined as 6 towns were represented: *(adopted 1/10/2008) A quorum would be made up of a majority of the total number of towns.*

2. Adjustments to the agenda: Doug Smith states that the Finance subcommittee was at an impasse and wanted to present the current status to seek future direction from the group.
3. Minutes: MOTION: Lester Sheaffer made a motion to accept the February 14th minutes as printed, seconded by Mark Brundage. Motion carried by consensus.
4. The Finance subcommittee reported there current status – handouts were provided.
 - “Guiding Principles for Cost Sharing Goal Development” reported by Dennis Dunbar
 - Discussion followed about the need to emphasize “for the education of our students”.
 - Group consensus decided to remove item #2, #3 becomes item #2, and revise bullet to read, “Sheepscot Valley RSU will seek to achieve maximum efficiency within the framework of providing high quality education to our students in the use and sharing of all resources.”

- **MOTION: Adopt “Guiding Principles” as part of plan with revisions. Motion by Mark Brundage, seconded by Dennis Dunbar.**

- **Roll call vote: Unanimous to accept by all six (present) towns.**

Alna (not present)	Chelsea (Rick Cote) = Yes	Palermo (Blake Brown) = Yes
Somerville (not present)	Westport (Dennis Dunbar) = Yes	Windsor (Carl Pease) = Yes
Whitefield (Lester Sheaffer) = Yes	Wiscasset (Doug Smith) = Yes	

- “Potential Cost Sharing Factors” reported by Doug Smith
 - Finance subcommittee determined that option #8 is the only one applicable to our RSU
 - Jake Clockedile recommends an interim funding formula that the RSU can adopt or change in year 3.
 - “Recommended Funding Factors” handout provided (options look at state valuation, pupil population, census population, or reduced/free lunch rate)
- “Taxation Distribution Safety Net Proposal” reported by Jay McIntire
 - The intent is to provide a “safety net” that varies from year to year to assist communities that have large tax increases.
 - Greg Potter clarified and emphasized this is not a funding formula, it is a interim safety net that “helps us get efficient together”.
 - **MOTION: Adopt “Taxation Distribution Safety Net” as part of plan. Motion by Carl Pease, seconded by Lester Sheaffer.**
 - **Roll call vote: Unanimous to accept by all six (present) towns.**

Alna (not present)	Chelsea (Allen Hallett) = Yes	Palermo (Blake Brown) = Yes
Somerville (not present)	Westport (Dennis Dunbar) = Yes	Windsor (Carl Pease) = Yes
Whitefield (Lester Sheaffer) = Yes	Wiscasset (Doug Smith) = Yes	

- “Potential Wording for a Transitional Cost Sharing Plan” reported by Jake Clockedile
 - Discussion about how it allows the RSU to change the plan
 - Item #5 - remove ... “a (choose a mechanism ...” – item should read
If the Board decides to proceed with changes to the cost sharing formula, the changes shall be presented to the public for ratification through either a District wide referendum or a District wide meeting. The Board may also include such changes as part of the regularly scheduled District Budget meeting or District Budget referendum.
 - Item #9 (“make” vs. “consider”) – item to read
*“Should the Board decide not to **make** any changes in the formula in the years designated for review, a petition signed by a number of voters that is at least 10% of the number of voters from the RSU who voted in the last gubernatorial election shall cause the Board to conduct the review and to report the decisions that come from that review at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.”*
 - Item #8 – add “formula” after cost sharing and term agreed to by group is 3 years.
*“The RSU Board shall review the cost sharing **formula** plan in the above manner at least every 3 years, for the purpose noted in statement #1 above.”*
 - **MOTION: Adopt “Wording for a Transitional Cost Sharing Plan” as part of plan with a review term of 3 years (under item #8). Motion by George Greene, seconded by Blake Brown.**
 - **Roll call vote: Unanimous to accept by all six (present) towns.**

Alna (not present)	Chelsea (Allen Hallett) = Yes	Palermo (Blake Brown) = Yes
Somerville (not present)	Westport (Dennis Dunbar) = Yes	Windsor (Carl Pease) = Yes
Whitefield (Lester Sheaffer) = Yes	Wiscasset (Doug Smith) = Yes	

- Cost Sharing above EPS – discussion revealed all subcommittees need to input into Finance before an interim formula can be finalized. Group requested that Greg Potter develop a proposal showing proportions and actuals for next meeting.
5. There was no public comment.
 6. Reminder of future meetings and deadlines for March 28th plan.
 7. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
George Greene, Recording Secretary
(for Sandra Crehore)

Guiding Principles for Cost Sharing Goal Development In Accordance with LD 1932 (if enacted)

The following Guiding Principles are suggested for consideration of a new School Committee once formed:

Guiding Principles

1. Cost sharing will be done in as fair and even-handed manner as possible for each member town.
2. Sheepscot Valley RSU will seek to achieve maximum efficiency within the framework of providing high quality education to or students in the use and sharing of all resources.

RPC – revised & adopted 2/21/2008

Potential Cost Sharing Factors
(For costs above EPS)

<i>Factor</i>	<i>Likely to Work Well</i>	<i>Unlikely to Work Well</i>
1. VALUATION Best to use 2007 rates & 100% EPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where communities are of similar size and valuations.Merging of SAD's using 100% valuations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where communities with high valuation & low student population are combining with low valuation & high student populationDistricts with significant disparity in value
2. PUPIL POPULATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where communities with similar pupil population are joiningWhere communities share similar economic conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Districts with wide disparities in student number are combining
3. CENSUS (general population)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">May work best in combination with other factors (ex. 1 & 2 above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
4. FREE / REDUCED LUNCH RATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Works best in combination with other factorsWhere communities share similar economic conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
5. MARKET AREA (median income of community) <i>use Labor Dept. Market area research for individual communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where communities have high valuation and low incomeWorks best in combination with other factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
6. CARRY IN AN AGREED UPON FIXED AMOUNT OVER EPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where communities have a wide disparity in amounts over EPSBest used in combination with other factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
7. CARRY IN CURRENT ABOVE EPS % (2007-2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Works best as ONLY a temporary transition planWorks in the widest range of combinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
8. K-8 FUNDED AT EPS BY RSU; ABOVE EPS FUNDING BY INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES ... 9-12 ABOVE EPS COSTS FUNDED ACROSS RSU W/ONE OR MORE OF THE ABOVE FACTORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where towns have a history of "school union" experienceWhere there is a need to flatten disparities in valuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where multiple communities have K-12 programs coming together (i.e. multiple high schools)
9. COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL VALUATION RATIOS	NOT RECOMMENDED AS A FACTOR BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY & VARIATION OF DATA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Very important to review all of the implemented factors after two yearsBets to try all combinations of these factorsAll of these factors are intended for use above EPS		

Provided by Jake Clockedile 2/11/2008

Taxation distribution safety net proposal

In any fiscal year in which the application of the RSU's funding formula results in one or more towns having a total decrease of local tax dollars raised for education* of 3% or more, the following will apply:

1. Each town described above (contributors) will raise additional tax dollars equal to half of the difference between their prior year's tax burden and that anticipated under the RSU funding formula.
2. Additional monies raised under #1 will be used to reduce the tax burden of any towns in the RSU anticipating an increase in total local tax burden that exceeds 3% (receivers). These reductions will be distributed among such towns on the basis of their population until each has no larger year-to-year increase than 3%.
3. In any year when the amounts raised under #1 above exceed the amounts needed to hold local taxation amounts constant, the additional monies raised shall be invested in an account to be used for major capitol expenses of the RSU.
4. If in any given year the RSU board determines that it has adequate money invested in its long-term capitol improvement account to meet its foreseeable needs, it may redirect the additional funds realized under #3 above for other educational purposes.

**For purposes of this section, "local tax dollars raised for education" means the tax dollars raised to serve the purposes of the RSU. It does not include taxes raised for other educational purposes or for purposes that are otherwise required by law to be the obligations of municipalities, not the RSU.*

EXAMPLE:

	<u>Current year taxes</u>	<u>Next fiscal year calculated taxes</u>	<u>Population</u>
Alna	1,000,000	900,000	
Westport Island	1,000,000	1,020,000	
Wiscasset	5,000,000	4,500,000	
Somerville	800,000	850,000	500
Windsor	3,000,000	3,200,000	2,000
Whitefield	3,000,000	2,970,000	
Palermo and Chelsea		no change	

STEP 1. Since its tax burdens are anticipated to decrease by more than 3%, Alna and Wiscasset would raise half of the difference (\$50,000 for Alna and \$250,000 for Wiscasset) and make this available to the RSU, so their local tax contributions would in fact be reduced by 5% instead of 10%.

STEP 2. The \$300,000 raised in step one would be available for distribution to any town with anticipated tax increases exceeding 3%, in this case Somerville and Windsor. The ratio of populations of these towns is 1:4, so the \$300,000 would be distributed accordingly until each town would realize an increase of 3%. In this case, there are sufficient funds to bring both of them down to the 3% goal. Thus Somerville would receive \$26,000 to offset taxes (yielding an increase of 3% from \$800,000 to \$824,000) and Windsor would receive \$110,000 to offset taxes (yielding an increase of 3% from \$3,000,000 to \$3,090,000).

STEP 3. The remaining \$164,000 would be invested in the RSU's account for capitol investments.

Note: Westport Island's increased tax burden of 2% would not be large enough for it to qualify as a receiver. Whitefield's decreased tax burden of 1% would not be large enough for it to qualify as a contributor.

*Provided by Jay McIntire – 2/14/2008
Revised & Adopted by RPC 2/21/2008*

Transitional Cost Sharing Plan

The RSU Board of Directors will have the authority to review and analyze the cost sharing formula in year 3 following incorporation of the RSU. If the Board decides that the cost sharing formula should be revised to provide greater balance in the cost sharing agreement, the Board shall utilize the following procedure to make any changes deemed advisable.

1. The Board shall conduct a review and study of the cost sharing formula as it has been used during the first three years of the existence of the RSU. In doing so, the Board shall consider variations in local costs that have occurred as a result of implementation of the cost sharing plan.
2. The Board may choose to conduct the review as a full Board, or to assign it to an appropriate Board sub-committee. They may also by majority vote, determine to employ a qualified consultant or consultants to conduct the review and bring any recommended changes to the Board for consideration.
3. If changes are recommended in the cost sharing formula, the Board will present those changes for discussion and review in a public hearing held for the residents of the RSU.
4. Following the public hearing, the Board shall complete a final review and consideration of the recommended changes as part of a regularly announced Board meeting.
5. If the Board decides to proceed with changes to the cost sharing formula, the changes shall be presented to the public for ratification through either a District wide referendum or a District wide meeting. The Board may also include such changes as part of the regularly scheduled District Budget meeting or District Budget referendum.
6. The meeting (or referendum) will be preceded by a public hearing on the proposed changes at which, a complete impact analysis of the changes will be explained to the public both in writing and verbally at the hearing.
7. The voting process and public hearings will be conducted in compliance with applicable state law and RSU Board policy.
8. The RSU Board shall review the cost sharing formula plan in the above manner at least every 3 years, for the purpose noted in statement #1 above.
9. Should the Board decide not to make any changes in the formula in the years designated for review, a petition signed by a number of voters that is at least 10% of the number of voters from the RSU who voted in the last gubernatorial election shall cause the Board to conduct the review and to report the decisions that come from that review at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

Provided by Jake Clockedile - 2/11/08
Revised & Adopted by RPC 2/21/2008

Reorganization Planning Committee

Alna, Chelsea, Palermo, Westport Island, Whitefield, Windsor, Wiscasset, Somerville
Whitefield Elementary School, Thursday, February 28, 2008, 6:30PM

1. Role Call of Membership and Towns
2. Adjustments to Agenda?
3. Resignation of Doug Smith (Co-Chair Position)
4. Election of New Co-Chair?
5. Approval of Minutes (2/21/08)
6. Sub Committee Time? 1 Hour? (Discuss)
7. Return to Large Group / Quick Update (Chairs) of Sub Committee Discussions/Work
8. Timeline for Plan Submission-Discussion
9. Set Agenda / Tasks for Next Meeting (Thursday, March 6th)
10. Other?
11. Adjourn

SHEEPSHOT VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES - FEBRUARY 28th, 2008

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Blake Brown, Co-chair

Roll call found the following:

Alna

Chelsea

Palermo

Somerville

Westport Island

Whitefield

Windsor

Wiscasset

Facilitator

Superintendents

Present

Barbara Baston

Liz Brown

Richard Cote

Allen Hallett

Sharon Morang

Cheri Rodrigue, Alternate

Blake, Brown, Co-chair

Mark Brundage,

Lisa Miller, Alternate

David Stanley

Sandra Crehore, Secretary

David Blake

Carolyn Meixell

Lester Sheaffer

Robert Soohey

Carl Pease, Alt

Dwight Tibbetts

George Greene

Jake Clockedile

Frank Boynton

Jay McIntire

Greg Potter

Elaine Nutter

Absent

Brian Lawrence

Albert Lawrence

Rick Danforth, Alt

Dean Potter

Natasha Bouchard,

Frank Hample

Dennis Dunbar

Steven McCormack,

Thomas Birmingham,

Richard Hagan

Doug Smith

Nicole Viele

2. Adjustments to the agenda

Lester Sheaffer requested time to discuss what happened last week. The Ground Rules when we started all of this were that problems would be out in front. Last week, without knowledge of most, the agenda was changed and the Finance Sub-committee had discussion with the chair not saying anything. Next week's agenda needs to be set before leaving tonight and new items need to be brought up under Adjustments to the Agenda. Everybody needs to get their ideas out. Sandra Crehore said she has been disturbed by an undertone of "our town won't pass it anyway".

3. Resignation of Doug Smith from Co-chair Position

A letter of resignation from Doug Smith was read by Jay McIntire. At this time, he is not resigning from the RPC but because of business constraints, his attendance may be spotty.

MOTION: Carolyn Meixell made a motion to accept Doug's resignation from Co-chair with regret. This was seconded by Mark Brundage and passed with a unanimous vote. Lester Sheaffer thanked Doug for the time he has put in.

4. Election of new co-chair.

MOTION: Robert Soohey nominated Lester Sheaffer as new co-chair. Seconded by Mark Brundage and passed with a unanimous vote. Lester assumed his new duties.

5. Approval of the minutes

MOTION: Dwight Tibbetts made a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Seconded by Mark Brundage. Passed with a unanimous vote.

6. The Committee broke at 6:55 for sub-committee work for one hour, to reconvene at 8:00 p.m.

7. Committee updates:

- a. Contracts – the sub-committee is chugging along. Looking to equalizing teacher salaries by creating bands. Should be ready with a completed report by March 13th.
- b. Disposition – making progress. Looking at coverage in use of buildings now.
- c. EPC – Has a draft form but will update it and maybe can report out next week.
- d. Finance – voted on options tonight. Will have a recommendation by March 13th.
- e. Governance – Made good progress. Met with Disposition and talked about road blocks. Local School Board is an issue – have a trial period for 2 or 3 years of just an RSU Board and then towns have a right to elect local school board if they feel it is necessary. Governance will be ready to report on the 13th or 20th

8. Timeline for Plan Submission Discussion.

Final plan not reasonable for March, maybe April if we want a June referendum vote. Bills in the Legislature may affect the plan so maybe a referendum vote won't be possible until September. Cost of a referendum will be supported by the state. Maybe a January '09 will be allowed for Plan. Jake Clockedile gave a list of what will be expected from the RSU Board in order for the RSU to be viable by July 1st with examples. It looks like an 8 or 9 month window is needed for these to be completed. Discussion of the strategy for holding the vote.

It was pointed out that the law has no exit strategy now but there probably will be. The only way now is to have voters vote the plan down.

Discussion continued with dates etc. **MOTION:** Mark Brundage made a motion that all sub-committees be prepared to vote on March 21st. There was no second and Mark withdrew his motion.

9. Agenda for next week.

- a. RSU Plan update by Superintendents so that all school committees can vote by March 28th.
- b. Contracts mini report
- c. Add "Public Comment"
- d. Additions to the agenda can be done by contacting Lester or Blake.

MINUTES - FEBRUARY 28th, 2008

10. Public Comment

It was asked what the procedure for an alternate to sit in on sub-committees. Alternates need to be appointed by Selectmen.

11. Other Business

MOTION: Dwight Tibbetts made a motion that we request that Jake Clockedile continue as our facilitator. Bob Connors has been gone long enough to have lost continuity whereas Jake has been present every week. This was seconded by David Stanley and passed with a unanimous vote. Blake and Lester will take care of this tomorrow (the 29th).

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra S. Crehore
Secretary

MINUTES - FEBRUARY 28th, 2008

